



Department of Justice

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LOUISVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIVING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

– Images of children having sex with other children and adults

LOUISVILLE, KY - Shawn Christopher Cowley, age 32, of 3106 Montana Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky, pled guilty to two counts of receiving and possessing child pornography, announced David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky.

Cowley faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a potential penalty of 30 years' imprisonment, a \$500,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of any term of years up to and including life. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Cowley entered his guilty plea before United States District Judge Charles R. Simpson, III, in Louisville, Kentucky. During the guilty plea hearing and through the written Plea Agreement filed in the record of the case, Cowley acknowledged a factual basis for the charges against him. This case arose out of the investigative efforts of the Jeffersontown Police Department aided by investigation of the Lexington Police Department.

Cowley used his computer to knowingly acquire child pornography *via* the Internet and downloaded them to the hard drive of his computer.

The Pornography Collected

1. An image recovered showing a male child, approximately 12-14 years of age, shown nude in an outdoor setting. The male child is kneeling behind

another nude person (small in stature). The second nude person is on his/her hands and knees. The face and front part of his/her body is not shown. The male child is shown inserting his penis into the anus of the person on his/her hands and knees.

2. A still image showing a minor female, approximately 13-15 years of age. The female's breasts are bare and she is shown lying back on a bed. She has very little breast development and is shown performing oral sex on an erect, adult male penis.

3. A female child is photographed licking an adult male's scrotum while the adult male is lying on his back with his legs spread and in the air and he is naked from the waist down.

4. Two side-by-side images of a small child lying on a dark pink spread with her legs drawn up as if in the fetal position. The other image shows her underpants being pulled away to reveal her naked pubic area. The legs are very small indicating a young child, approximately under the age of 8-10.

The Facts

Cowley admitted the following: On December 6, 2005, a Jeffersontown ("J-town") Police Department Detective presented an Affidavit for Search Warrant to a Jefferson County District Judge. The affidavit advised that prior to May 19, 2005, law enforcement officials had executed a state Search Warrant on Cowley's residence, with the intent of seizing Cowley's computer and related materials. The computer system, however, could not be located in the home. A family member told law enforcement that the computer had been sold in a yard sale. However, in early December 2005, the J-town Detective received information that Cowley was still in possession

of the computer system and that it was located at Cowley's mother's home. The person providing the information gave an address on Montana Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky, and advised that Cowley was currently residing at the address. The affidavit included additional information in support of the request for the Search Warrant for Montana Avenue.

On December 6, 2005, the Jefferson District Court Judge issued a Search Warrant for the Montana Avenue address. Among other things, the warrant authorized the seizure of computers and computer systems to be searched for certain types of evidence. Law enforcement officials seized two HP Pavilion computers from the Montana Avenue residence.

The J-town Detective submitted the seized computers to the Lexington Police Department ("LPD"), computer forensic services unit for forensic examination. An LPD Detective conducted a preliminary examination of both computers on December 14, 2005. During the course of the preliminary examination, the LPD Detective found several files containing the child pornography. The LPD Detective contacted the J-town Detective and requested that the J-town Detective seek a search warrant authorizing further search for evidence relating to child pornography.

On May 31, 2006, the J-town Detective presented an Affidavit for Search Warrant to a Jefferson County District Judge. The judge issued a Search Warrant that same day. The warrant authorized search of two computers, an HP Pavilion 532W #KR22514143 and HP Pavilion 503W #MX236A6214 for evidence including, but not limited to, child pornography.

The LPD Detective conducted further examination of the computers pursuant to the May 31, 2006, Search Warrant. He found no evidence on one computer, HP Pavilion 503W #MX236A6214. On the second computer, HP Pavilion 532W #KR22514143, however, the LPD Detective recovered information indicating Internet searches for "preteen," "pre teen nude,"

“incest,” and “family.” The computer records revealed numerous visits to web sites with titles suggesting the presentation of child pornography. Additionally, the LPD Detective recovered several images of the before-described child pornography.

Cowley was previously indicted by the Jefferson County Grand Jury in a 30-count Indictment on May 19, 2005, charging Cowley with multiple instances of sodomy (including first, second, and third degree), six counts of third degree unlawful transaction with a minor, and two counts of intimidating a witness.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless is prosecuting the case. The Jeffersontown Police Department, in close association with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Lexington Police Department.

Judge Simpson scheduled Cowley’s sentencing hearing for June 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

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